Therefore, the TDP system described above may be used to remotely maintain and/or troubleshoot a motorized wheelchair, thus reducing, expediting or in some cases eliminating altogether a service call. The TDP system may also be used to "repair" a motorized wheelchair when the batteries are discharged and only need recharging, when drive or performance parameters need to be reprogrammed (e.g. varied or adjusted), or when a connector associated with control module has become unplugged.

The invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiment(s). Obviously, modifications and alterations will occur to others upon reading and understanding the preceding detailed description. It is intended that the invention be construed as including all such modifications and alterations insofar as they come within the scope of the appended claims of the equivalents thereof.

Having thus described the preferred embodiment(s), the invention is now claimed to be:

1. A method of remote communication between a remote data processing unit with an associated video monitor and a motorized wheelchair having an associated controller and an associated modem, said remote data processing unit and said controller each being capable of generating data, comprising the steps of

using the modem to establish a data communications link between the controller and the remote data processing unit;

uploading first data from the controller across the data communications fink to the remote data processing unit for display on the video monitor;

downloading second data from the remote data processing unit across the data communications link to the controller; and

terminating the data communications link after the controller acknowledges receipt of the second data.

2. The method of claim **1**, further including the step of:

modifying at least a portion of the first data to generate the second data.

3. The method of claim **1**, wherein the downloading second data step includes the step of:

storing the second data in a memory associated with the controller.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein the uploading first data includes the step of:

reading the first data from a memory associated with the controller.

5. The method of claim **1**, wherein the uploading first data step includes the step of:

reading at least one of error code data and first data from a memory associated with the controller.

6. The method of claim **5** wherein said first data and said second data are drive parameter data, further including the steps of:

modifying at least a portion of the first drive parameter data to generate second drive parameter data; and

downloading the second drive parameter data from the remote data processing unit across the data communications link to the controller.

7. The method of claim **6**, further including the step of:

storing at least one of the error code data, first drive parameter data, and second drive parameter data in a database record.

8. The method of claim **6**, further including the step of:

printing out at least one of the error code data, first drive parameter data, and second drive parameter data on a printer.

9. A wheelchair diagnostic system, comprising:

a data communications network;

a motorized wheelchair having a controller associated therewith;

a modem coupled between the controller and the data communications network;

a remote data processing unit coupled to the data communications network; and

a diagnostics tool executing on the remote data processing unit which facilitates communicating with the controller across the data communications network, the diagnostics tool including computer readable code means for causing first data from the controller to be downloaded across the data communications network to the remote data processing unit.

10. The wheelchair diagnostic system of claim **9**, further including:

computer readable code means for modifying the first data to generate second data; and

computer readable code means for uploading the second data across the data communications network to the controller for storage in a controller memory.

11. The wheelchair diagnostic system of claim **9**, wherein the first data includes at least one of error code data and drive parameter data.

12. A program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a computer to display first data received across a data communication network from a controller associated with a wheelchair, the computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect downloading of the first data from a memory associated with the controller; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect displaying the first data on a video monitor, the first data including at least one of error code data and drive parameter data.

13. The program product of claim **12**, further including

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect modifying the first data to generate second data.

14. The program product of claim **12**, further including

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect uploading the second data across the data communications network to the memory associated with the controller.

15. The program product of claim **12**, further including

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect storing at least one of the first data and the second data in a database record.

16. The program product of claim **12**, further including

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to effect printing at least one of the first data and the second data on a printer.

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